[Theme music ‘Some Spooky Sh*t Is Going On Here’ by Theo Goodwin plays.]

INTRO

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The Underwood Collection, Episode Two: Reflection

[Tape recorder clicks on. Tape static is heard continually throughout.]

ULYSSES
Statement of - someone - I cannot read that - on behalf of Cecil Coester. Original statement given 5th of January, 2002. Recording by UC Bamba, Assistant Curator of the Usher Foundation, Washington DC.

Statement begins.

What do you see when you look in a mirror? It's a rather simple question. You see yourself, most likely. Why wouldn't you? So... boring. So ordinary.

Cecil Coester never did.

He saw things that could not be real. He saw things that were painfully real. He saw lies after lies after lies...

The worst of them all, though, the absolute worst of the countless nightmares, was when he merely saw himself.

It scared him.

He avoided reflections during the day. He was tortured by dreams of endless halls of endless mirrors at night.

At some point, they stopped being dreams.

But Cecil was scared, not stupid.

He smashed every mirror he could find, destroying his own face, fracturing himself over and over and over...

Until one of them did not break, and he looked in and he saw us.

Hundreds and thousands of us. He witnessed our twisting, and he understood. He knew what he was meant for, what his true potential was.

He smiled at his reflection for the very first time, and then he became it.

I was reborn and unborn and it was nothing short of euphoric.

I wonder, can you even imagine how freeing it is? To exist on your own terms?

I doubt it. You are so obsessed with labels and boxes and neat little truths.

Words cannot contain me. Truth cannot describe me. Reality itself is too narrow for what I am, and what I *am* is glorious.

I could show you. I could trap you in your own face until you understood, until you saw our perfection reflected within your own eyes. How would your close-minded God feel about that, I wonder?

...No. Better not. There is much more coming for you, and I am very excited to see how it unfolds.

Next time you look in the mirror, do me a favor, will you? Smile! And ask yourself who exactly is smiling back.

Be seeing you!

Statement ends.

Always something of a treat to find one of these. Especially after a long day of absolute nonsense.

It is… strange, though, to read a fanatical statement like this, to come to terms with the idea that people aren't just hapless victims. That there are those who... chose the life of… serving fear, who love it.

(Excited.)
It’s fascinating! Awful, but… fascinating.

There was no leads to follow-up upon. Didn't really expect there to be. Still, this does back up Mr. Seger's experiences in case - let's see if I can remember the number - 0040516. Whoever this... Unnamed Statement Giver Is is, they obviously enjoy what they do far too much to be reasoned with.

Not too much of a surprise, but it's too late for a good joke. I've got date night tomorrow and Ever *will* kill me if they find out how late I stayed here, so I'll be clocking out.

Hopefully I won't be smashing any mirrors. Heard it's bad luck.

End recording.

[Theme plays.]

OUTRO

The Underwood Collection is a podcast produced and distributed by the Pitch Library Creative Team. Find us on Twitter @PitchLibrary, on Tumblr at www.pitchlibrary.tumblr.com, or contact us by sending an email to usherfoundation@gmail.com. The Underwood Theme was written by Theodore Goodwin and the Underwood Logo was created by Mae B. Thank you for listening.

[Theme ends.]